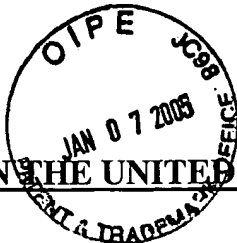


IFW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
ITOH

Atty. Ref.: 160-387

Serial No. 10/629,828

TC/A.U.: 2856

Filed: July 30, 2003

Examiner:

For: SPECIMEN PREPROCESSING AND CONVEYING SYSTEM

* * * * *

January 7, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attention is invited to the attached copy of an Official Action, with English translation, issued in a counterpart Japanese application mailed November 30, 2004 and copies of the documents cited in it. A completed Form PTO 1449 is also attached.

A concise explanation of relevance is not necessary (and is not included) as a complete translation of the Official Action is provided. See MPEP §609A(3).

Official citation and consideration of all the attached documents is requested. Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained herein was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months from the filing date of this statement [see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (2)].

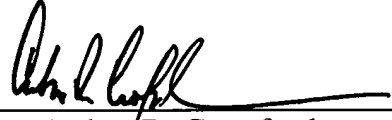
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Serial No. 10/629,828

Respectfully submitted,

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